

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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P 091000Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9677

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AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: CHOLERA RESEARCH LABORATORY - INTERNATIONALIZATION

SUMMARY: BANGLADESH NATIONAL AND OTHERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE CRL AND INTERNATIONALIZATION CONTINUE TO DEBATE STRUCTURE, SCOPE, CONDUCT AND NAME OF PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER. CONTROVERSY IS CHARACTERIZED BY REPETITION OF SERIOUS CHARGES OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT BY PAST AND PRESENT CRL EMPLOYEES AND BANGLADESHI MEMBERS OF SCIENTIFIC REVIEW COMMITTEE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE. CHARGES OF PERSONAL MISBEHAVIOR ARE BEING MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. CHARGE OF KEY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS HAS RESULTED IN HEATED DEBATE CONCERNING THEIR COMPETENCE AND CHARACTER. SOME EMPLOYEE GROUPS MAY DEMAND THE DIRECTOR OR GOVERNING COUNCIL RESCIND RECENT PERSONNEL ACTIONS OR MAKE OTHER CHANGES.

2. MOSLEY HAS INFORMED US OF ACTION BY UNDP TO OBTAIN FROM BDG AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT CONCERNING ITS AGREEMENT TO AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER AS NOW DESCRIBED IN THE DRAFT ORDINANCE. MOSLEY BELIEVES MR. ANWAR, SECRETARY OF HEALTH, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND POPULATION, WILL REPRESENT THE BDG AT ANY MEETINGS OF AN INTERIM INTERNATIONAL

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COMMITTEE IN EUROPE. ANWAR IS EXPECTED TO MEET IN EUROPE WITH UNDP ON 14 AND 15 JUNE, BUT MOSLEY THINKS IT DOUBTFUL HE WILL HAVE AN OFFICIAL BDG POSITION BY THAT TIME BECAUSE THERE IS CONTINUED OPPOSITION IN BANGLADESH TO AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER AS NOW DESCRIBED IN THE DRAFT ORDINANCE. MOSLEY UNDERSTANDS AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL IS STILL INSISTING ON THE INCLUSION OF BANGLADESH IN NAME

OF INSTITUTE AND ASKING FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION OF EVERY LINE OF DRAFT ORDINANCE. DOUBTFUL AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED WITHIN GOVERNMENT SOON. AT COMING MEETING IN EUROPE, MR. ANWAR WILL PROVIDE UNDP WITH LIST OF COUNTRIES BDG WISHES INVITED TO INTERIM INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (IIC) MEETINGS. LIST WILL INCLUDE DEVELOPING (NON-DONOR) COUNTRIES AND OPEC COUNTRIES. ANWAR WILL PROBABLY PROMISE THE NECESSARY BDG POSITION PAPER IN JULY SO THAT INVITEES MAY CONSIDER IT AND PREPARE FOR MEETING IN EUROPE ON 18 AND 19 SEPTEMBER 1978.

3. FOUR PROMINENT BANGLADESHIS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE WRITTEN, SIGNED AND MAILED A NEW LETTER TO LANCET WHICH REPEATS PROVIOUS CHARGES OF (A) UNETHEICAL RESEARCH WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS, (B) DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE FOR BANGLADESHIS, (C) USE OF CRL BY FOREIGN POWERS AS COVER FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, (D) SUPPRESSION BY EXPATRIATES OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION, (E) DISPROPORTIONATE USE OF RESOURCES OF CRL FOR BENEFIT OF FOREIGNERS, ETC. LETTER THEN LISTS TEN SUGGESTIONS: NEW INSTITUTE SHOULD DO RESEARCH ONLY REGARDING DIARRHEA. (RESEARCH IN POPULATIN, FERTILITY, NUTRITION, CLINICAL MEDICNE, SOCIAL MEDICINE WOULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE FIVE NATIONAL INSTITUTES.) RESEARCH SHOULD INCLUDE DEVELOPMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS UNDER STUDY. TWO THIRDS OF THE SENIOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATORS INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR AND THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTORS SHOULD COME FRM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOULD CONTAIN AT LEAST TWO THIRDS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND...THE BOARD SHOULD INCLUDE FROM BEGINNING, FOR EXAMPLE, MEMBERS FROM WEST EUROPE, SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, CHINA. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEES SHOULD BE SPELLED OT IN DETAIL IN ORDINANCE. PROTOCOLS FOR HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. NO MORE THAN TWENTY FIVE PERCENT OF THE INSTITUTION'S FINANCING SHOULD COME FROM ANY ONE NATIONALITY. SALARY LEVELS SHOULD NOT BE HIGH ENOUGH TO PERMIT LARGE PROFITS ABOVE EXPENSES. ALL EMPLOYEES OF CENTER SHOULD PAY BANGLADESH INCOME TAXES. THE FOREGOING LIST OF TEN FOLLOWED BY ONE CLOSING SENTENCE QUOTE SCIENTISTS WITHOUT A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE ARE SELFISH, POINTLESS AND EVIL. END QUOTE.

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4. ABOVE LETTER TO LANCET IS DATED 21 MAY. USAID HAS ONLY A PHOTOCOPY OF A RE-TYPED COPY OF A PHOTOCOPY. WE CANNOT DETERMINE WHO HAS SIGNED LETTER AND THERE ARE DIFFERENT STORIES ABOUT THIS, ABOUT THE DATE SENT, ETC. THE TYPED NAMES AT END OF LETTER ARE: PROFESSOR NURAL ISLAM, DEAN FACULTY OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH, DACCA, UNIV.; DR. MAJERA MEHTAB, MEDICAL DIRECTOR, BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION FOR DIABETES, ENDOCRINE AND METABOLIC DISEASES; DR. M.A. MUTTALIB, PRESIDENT COMMUNITY HEALTH RESEARCH ASSOCIATION; AND DR. ZAFRULLAH CHOWDHURY, PROJECTS COORDINATOR, GANOSHASTHAYA KANDRA. OF THESE, DR. NURAL ISLAM IS MEMBER OF DACCA IIC AND HAS ADVOCATED STRONGLY DOMINANT POSITIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND BANGLADESH AS WELL AS VERY NARROW RESEARCH SCOPE.

5. FOOTNOTES REPEAT ALLEGATIONS IN LETTER THAT MANY OF BANGLADESHIS ASSOCIATED WITH ETHICS COMMITTEES AND SCIENTIFIC REVIEW COMMITTEES HAVE PERSONALLY BENEFITED FROM CRL AFFILIATIONS, E.G. GRANTS, INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, ETC.

6. FOREGOING ARE BECOMING COMMON KNOWLEDGE, AND FACTUAL BASES PROVIDED IN PAPERS, MEMORANDA, ETC. ADDITIONALLY THERE ARE CONTINUED AND PROBABLY WELL FOUNDED RUMORS OF DISSENSION AMONG BOTH EXPATRIATE AND BANGLADESHI STAFF OF CRL WHICH COULD RESULT IN GROUP ACTIONS, E.G.
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PETITIONS, CHARGE SHEETS, ETC.

7. FINALLY, THERE ARE RUMORS THAT SOME EXPATRIATE AND BANGLADESHI STAFF ARE ACCUSING THEIR COLLEAGUES OF SOCIAL IMPROPRIETIES WHICH CAN ONLY OBFUSCATE FURTHER THE PROFESSIONAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE THE CRL COMMUNITY.

8. THERE IS REAL POSSIBILITY THAT ONE OF THE MANY FACTIONS
WILL TAKE AN ACTION WHICH WILL NEED OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE
AID/W PROJECT MANAGER. HE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR TDY
DACCA AT ANY TIME THIS SUMMER.

DECON 12/31/79
SCHNEIDER

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